

In the claims:

Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this Response.

1-28 (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method comprising:

transitioning a central processing unit (CPU) of a computer system into a low power mode, the computer system having a memory,

independent of the CPU, interpreting verbal instruction from a user at a speech recognition unit of a low-power subsystem; and

independent of the CPU and in response to the verbal instructions, accessing data contained within the computer system memory through a shared database using a processor of the low-power subsystem, the shared database being shared by the computer system and the low-power subsystem.

30. (New) The method of Claim 29, further comprising storing at least a partial copy of data accessed from the computer system memory in the shared database.

31. (New) The method of Claim 29, wherein the computer system memory comprises a disk drive unit.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the data contained in the shared database includes multimedia data.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising accessing data from a network via the low-power subsystem.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the network is accessed using a wireless interface.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the network is an electronic store allowing an electronic purchase.

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36. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising presenting the data accessed to a user via a display of the low-power subsystem.

37. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising presenting the data accessed to a user via an audio medium of the low-power subsystem.

38. (New) An apparatus comprising:  
a computer system  
a shared database coupled to the computer system;  
a user interface to receive verbal instructions from a user; and  
a low-power subsystem coupled to the shared database and to the user interface, the low power subsystem having speech recognition unit to interpret verbal instructions from the user and a processor to provide access to the computer system through the shared database in response to the verbal instructions.

39. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the low-power subsystem is in operation when the central processing unit enters a low power mode.

40. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the computer system further comprises:

a central processing unit (CPU);  
a memory device coupled to the central processing unit; and  
a disk drive unit coupled to the central processing unit.

41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein the shared database is coupled to the disk drive unit, the database to store at least a partial copy of data stored on the disk drive.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein data contained within the database includes multimedia data.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the low-power subsystem further comprises a wireless interface to connect with a local area network.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the user interface of the low-power subsystem further comprises a video display to display data from the shared database.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the low-power subsystem further comprises a wireless interface to receive verbal instructions from the user interface.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the user interface further comprises an audio headset to receive audio data transmitted from the wireless interface.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the low-power subsystem further comprises an interface to transmit data to a cellular phone.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the computer system comprises a main screen and the low-power subsystem comprises a miniature display screen and wherein the miniature display screen is activated when the main screen is closed.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the computer system comprises stored multimedia data, wherein the low-power subsystem accesses the stored multimedia data through the shared database and wherein the low-power subsystem presents the multimedia data to a user through the user interface.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the low-power subsystem presents the multimedia data to the user over a miniature display screen of the user interface.

51. (New) A low-power subsystem comprising:

a speech recognition unit to interpret verbal instructions from a user;

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a processor coupled to the speech recognition unit and to a shared database, the processor providing access to a computer system through the shared database in response to verbal instructions from the speech recognition unit.

52. (New) The subsystem of claim 51 wherein the processor provides access to the computer system when the computer system is in a low-power mode.

53. (New) The subsystem of claim 51, wherein the shared database is coupled to the computer system to store at least a partial copy of data stored in the computer system.

54. (New) The subsystem of claim 51, further comprising a wireless interface to connect to an external network.

55. (New) The subsystem of claim 51, further comprising a wireless interface to connect a headset and the speech recognition unit.

56. (New) The subsystem of claim 51 further comprising a miniature display screen to present data accessed from the computer system to the user.